Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /070 W

-----040691 242150Z /15

R 212303Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0029
INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCNCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

CONFIDENTIAL GUATEMALA 2417

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, GT, PN, US

SUBJ: REACTION TO SENATE VOTE ON CANAL TREATY

REF: STATE 095209 AND SUBSEQUENT

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. GOG HAS RELEASED TEXT OF MESSAGE FROM ACTING FONMIN AYCINENA TO PANAMANIAN FONMIN GONZALEZ REVILLA, DATED APRIL 19. AFTER ACKNOWLEDGING RECEIPT OF GONZALEZ' MESSAGE REGARDING US SENATE RESERVATIONS TO CANAL TREATY, AYCINENA OFFERED "EFFUSIVE CONGRATULATIONS FOR THE PANAMANIAN ACHIEVEMENT WHICH CONTRIBUTES TO THE DEFENSE OF JURIDICAL EQUALITY OF STATES (ETC.)...DEMONSTRATING CATEGORICALLY THAT NEGOTIATED SOLUTIONS (CAN) RESOLVE CONFLICTS BETWEEN NATIONS IN DECENT FASHION." AYCINENA'S MESSAGE REFERRED TO THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT AS "YOUR DISTINGUISHED GOVERNMENT."

2. PRESS HAS ALSO CARRIED STATEMENT OF A PRESIDENTIAL DEPUTY PRESS SECRETARY ARCHILA EXPRESSING SATISFACTION THAT "THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PROBLEM HAS BEEN RESOLVED IN A PEACEFUL MANNER FAVORABLE TO THE INTERESTS OF BOTH PARTIES." HE HOPED THAT "THE DECISION WILL ENABLE THE US TO IMPROVE ITS RELATIONS WITH THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA, ESPECIALLY CENTRAL AMERICA." END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. COMMENT. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. GUATEMALA BROKE RELATIONS

WITH PANAMA IN MAY 1977 AFTER THE TORRIJOS GOVERNMENT SHIFTED GROUND ON THE BELIZE QUESTION. THE WARM TONE OF THE GUATE-MALAN REPLY IS INTERESTING, AND MAY REPRESENT A CONSCIOUS EFFORT BY THE LAUGERUD GOVERNMENT TO MOVE IN THE DIRECTION OF NORMALIZATION, ANTICIPATING PRESIDENT-ELECT LUCAS' EXPRESSED INTENTION TO RESUME DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. THE REFERENCE TO "DECENT" SOLUTIONS VIA NEGOTIATIONS IS A CATCH-PHRASE OFTEN USED IN THE CONTEXT OF GUATEMALAN ASPIRATIONS FOR A BELIZE SETTLEMENT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: TREATY RATIFICATION, CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES, CANALS

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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

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Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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